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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 9318-0004Date Feb. 18, 1998

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Box PATENT APPLICATION  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following utility patent application is enclosed for filing:

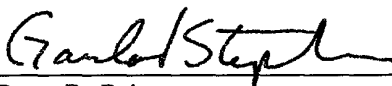
Applicant(s): Mark BurkeExecuted on: UnexecutedTitle of Invention: Foreign Object Definition Information Repository**PATENT APPLICATION FEE VALUE**

TYPE	NO. FILED	LESS	EXTRA	EXTRA RATE	FEE
Total Claims	21	-20	1	\$22.00 each	22.00
Independent	5	-3	2	\$82.00 each	164.00
Minimum Fee					790.00
Multiple Dependency Fee If Applicable (\$270.00)					
<b>Total</b>					976.00
50% Reduction for Independent Inventor, Nonprofit Organization or Small Business Concern (a verified statement as to the applicant's status is attached)					-
<b>Total Filing Fee</b>					\$ 976.00

- ☐ Priority of application no. filed on in is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119.  
☐ The certified copy of the priority application has been filed in application no. filed .  
☐ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the following sentence; This is a continuation-in-part of application no. filed .

Please charge the required fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

*for*   
 Barry D. Rein  
 PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP

37,242  
22,411  
 (Reg. No.)

Enclosure

This form is not for use with continuation, divisional, re-issue, design or plant patent applications.

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EM 061 016 993 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Mark Burke

Serial No.: 09/025,143

Group Art Unit: 2755

Filed: February 19, 1998

Examiner: To be assigned

For: FOREIGN OBJECT DEFINITION Attorney Docket No.: 9318-0004  
INFORMATION REPOSITORY

RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
BOX MISSING PARTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Notice To File Missing Parts Of Application mailed on May 21, 1998, a copy of which is enclosed, applicants submit herewith a Declaration and Power of Attorney for the subject application which has been executed by the inventor.

The fee for the submission of this Response is estimated to be \$130.00. Please charge all required fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Rein

22411

Date August 19, 1998

by Garland Stephens

Garland T. Stephens

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(Reg. No.)

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## FOREIGN OBJECT DEFINITION INFORMATION REPOSITORY

### 1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to object-oriented or object-based distributed object management technology, and more specifically to a repository for foreign object definition information, a gateway for manipulating foreign objects using such foreign object definition information, and a network management system using such a gateway.

### 2. BACKGROUND

Object-oriented and object-based programming techniques encapsulate computer programs and data in objects which separate implementation details from the contractual interface through which the objects are used. An object's interface defines the object's type, and is the view of the object exposed and accessible from outside the object. The interface is usually a listing of the operations and attributes that an operation provides. For example, a typical object interface includes the object's methods and their signatures together with any externally accessible fields. The details of the object's implementation other than those reflected in the interface are hidden. See Booch, Object-Oriented Analysis and Design, Addison-Wesley (1994). Objects are invoked through their interface.

Because an object invocation must conform to the object's interface, any entity seeking to invoke an object must have access to interface definition information for the object at the time it makes the invocation.

Interface information may be acquired either statically or dynamically. Statically acquired interface information is typically compiled or built into an invoking entity (usually another object), and cannot be changed without recompiling or modifying that entity. Dynamically acquired interface information, on the other hand, is typically acquired at run-time, and permits the construction

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object, and "skeleton" code implementing the interface on the invoked object. CORBA IDL language mappings exist for a variety of languages including Smalltalk, C++ and Java. See The Common Object Request Broker: Architecture and  
5 Specification, Revision 2.0, July 1995, updated July 1996.

Another distributed object-oriented environment supporting language-independent object definitions is included in the Open System Interconnection (OSI) network management standards published by the International  
10 Organization for Standardization (ISO). The Common Management Information Protocol (CMIP) and the Common Management Information Service Element (CMISE) defined in these standards incorporate a distributed object model for network management. This model is described in part in CCITT  
15 Recommendation X.722 (1992), "Information Technology -- Open Systems Interconnection - Management Information Services - Structure of Management Information: Guidelines for the Definition of Managed Objects." Objects defined in accordance with Recommendation X.722 are referred to in this  
20 specification as "GDMO objects."

In the OSI world, objects are specified in GDMO/ASN.1. "ASN.1" refers to Abstract Syntax Notation One, a complex type definition notation. GDMO/ASN.1 object definitions are based on a set of templates used to describe  
25 managed objects used for network management and control. Among other object information, ASN.1 is used to define transfer syntaxes which can be used to invoke GDMO objects. ASN.1 is specified in ITU-T Recommendation X.208, "Specification of Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1)".

30 When objects defined in one scheme (such as CORBA, for example) are used to manipulate (for example to invoke or instantiate) objects defined in another scheme (such as GDMO/ASN.1, for example), object definition information, including interface information must be somehow acquired  
35 across definition schemes.

Object definition information may be acquired across definition schemes by translating definitions from one

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scheme into the other. However, a syntactic or semantic mismatch between the schemes may make the translation or its results cumbersome or unworkable.

GDMO/ASN.1, for example, supports a richer variety  
5 of types than does CORBA IDL. Translation into CORBA IDL from ASN.1 often leads to unmanageable CORBA IDL definitions, and very large executables. Also, CORBA IDL translated from GDMO/ASN.1 is typically incomplete because information is lost during the translation process. The resulting  
10 collection of managed object definition information may not contain all the required information to perform CMISE operations.

There is therefore a need to provide a system for permitting objects having definitions in one definition  
15 notation to access object definitions specified in a different object definition notation in a manner that does not cause information to be lost in the process.

Accordingly, it is one objective of the present invention is to provide a first set of object definition  
20 information specified in a first notation to objects specified at least in part in a second notation without translating the first object definition information into the second object definition notation.

Another objective of the invention is to provide a  
25 means by which objects specified at least in part in a first object definition notation can invoke objects specified at least in part in a second object definition notation.

A further objective of the invention is to provide a means by which objects can instantiate objects defined at  
30 least in part in a foreign object definition notation.

Another objective of this invention is to provide a metadata repository by which a objects can use interfaces defined in a first object definition notation to discover object definitions specified in a second object definition  
35 notation.

### 3. SUMMARY

The invention accomplishes these and other objectives by encapsulating foreign object definition information in encapsulator objects having native interfaces.

- 5 The encapsulated foreign object definition information need not be translated into native definition notation, but may be discovered by interrogating the encapsulator objects using their native interfaces.

Encapsulator objects can include all information  
10 contained in GDMO/ASN.1 specifications, in any suitable format. Encapsulated information may be discovered by invoking the encapsulator objects on their CORBA interfaces without translating the encapsulated specifications into CORBA IDL.

- 15 The invention also encompasses the use of encapsulator objects in a foreign object definition information repository. Such a repository includes supporting objects that provide additional services for run-time discovery of foreign object definition information, such  
20 as searching for specific types of foreign object definitions.

The encapsulator objects and metadata repository of the invention may be used to construct a dynamic gateway that does not require compile-time information of object  
25 definitions of objects using its services. All information necessary for adaptation of the dynamic gateway can be provided through the metadata repository. Such a gateway may be provided as an off-the-shelf application for deployment in a variety of environments.

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### 4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of an object definition metadata repository showing encapsulator and support object types.

- 35 Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a dynamic CORBA/CMIS gateway comprising a object definition metadata repository.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram comprising a greatly simplified representation of a collection of encapsulator objects and references corresponding to a completely specified GDMO/ASN.1 object definition.

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## 5. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment, the invention comprises a method and system for encapsulating object definition information expressed in a first notation in encapsulator objects defined  
10 at least in part in a second, typically different notation. In a preferred embodiment, the encapsulator objects expose interfaces defined in the second notation. This specification refers to such a first notation as foreign notation, and such a second notation as native notation.  
15 Corresponding objects, object definitions, interfaces, interface information and interface definitions are also referred to as "foreign" and "native" respectively.

In a preferred embodiment, encapsulator objects are created by a parser that parses foreign notation. For  
20 example, in one preferred embodiment, the parser accepts foreign object definition information expressed in foreign notation and instantiates one or more encapsulator objects for each rule (such as a production) in a grammar that corresponds to the syntactic structure defined in the foreign  
25 notation. The resulting collection of encapsulator objects reflects the syntactic structure of the foreign object definition information. The encapsulator objects expose native interfaces that may be interrogated to discover the foreign object definition information they encapsulate.

30 Standard compiler generation tools such as lex and yacc may be used to create a parser, such as a parser for GDMO/ASN.1 specifications, in accordance with the present invention. The system may in addition resolve ISO object identifiers into their integer components, perform semantic  
35 checking and resolve informal references to other specifications.





10 In a preferred embodiment, the collection of encapsulator objects has the form of a metadata repository. In such an embodiment, support objects provide services for the discovery of encapsulator objects. For example, a foreign object definition metadata repository could provide a  
15 class having a native interface that accepts invocations for all encapsulator types, and which parses the invocations using the encapsulator objects. Other services, such as for iteration through the encapsulator objects in the repository, or sophisticated query and/or scoping services may be  
20 provided, permitting the discovery of encapsulator objects having only a certain type or property.

A foreign object definition metadata repository may be used in applications requiring dynamic discovery of foreign object definitions. An example of such an application is a CORBA based GDMO browser, which would use predefined CORBA interfaces to discover and present information from the repository, and could permit manipulation on the fly of GDMO objects having definitions encapsulated in encapsulator objects visible to the browser. Other examples such as a dynamic gateway or code generator are described in greater detail below.

In one preferred embodiment, the encapsulator repository has the form of a GDMO repository, and a containment structure as shown in Fig. 1. In the GDMO repository of this embodiment, a CORBA GDMO Repository object (111) contains one or more CORBA GDMO Document objects (112). Each Document object in turn contains one or more CORBA

objects of types corresponding to GDMO template and ASN.1 Module types.

By using the services of the Repository and Document supporting objects, CORBA client objects can

5 discover CORBA encapsulator objects encapsulating particular GDMO template types and/or originating in a particular GDMO definition document. For example, the Repository object (111) could be interrogated to discover all available objects encapsulating GDMO Attribute Group template types. Or a

10 Document object corresponding for example to CCITT Recommendation X.721 could be interrogated to discover all objects encapsulating GDMO Action template types specified in that Recommendation.

Encapsulator objects, parsers of object definition

15 information and object factories for instantiating encapsulator objects, as well as supporting objects for discovery of encapsulator objects and applications using these structures may be constructed in a variety of ways that will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill working

20 in the distributed object and network management fields.

Encapsulator objects may be used to advantage in a number of applications. In particular, gateways for manipulating foreign objects may be readily implemented through the use of encapsulator objects to construct

25 invocations on foreign objects.

In a preferred embodiment, a dynamic gateway uses a foreign object definition metadata repository to manipulate foreign objects at run time in response to requests on native interfaces for services requiring use of those foreign

30 objects.

In one preferred embodiment, a dynamic CORBA/CMIS gateway is implemented through the use of a foreign object definition repository as shown in Fig. 2. The gateway includes both a CORBA server (201) and a CMIS manager (202)

35 interoperating as a single application (203). The CORBA server (201) exports a CORBA interface (204) through which one or more CORBA clients such as (205) may utilize CMIS

services and CMIP (208) to invoke services of a CMIS agent (206). Encapsulator objects in a GDMO/ASN.1 repository (207) are referenced by the CORBA server (201) to provide the object definition information required by the CMIS manager to  
5 manipulate one or more CMIS agents such as (206).

The dynamic CORBA/CMIS gateway (203) is a generic application that can accept a variety of requests from CORBA objects such as (205) for CMIS operations without compile-time knowledge of the GDMO/ASN.1 definitions for the CMIS  
10 operations requested. By using CORBA DSI, the generic gateway can accept invocations on CORBA IDL interfaces that depend on the CMIS operations desired and parse those invocations using the GDMO/ASN.1 repository. The generic gateway can thus be deployed off-the-shelf in a variety of  
15 environments by encapsulating the CMIS operation dependent information for each environment in the foreign interface repository.

In this embodiment, upon receipt of a request using DSI for a CMIS operation from a CORBA object, the dynamic  
20 gateway invokes a root repository object using managed object class name information included in the request. The root repository object returns a reference to an encapsulator object corresponding to a managed object class template specified by the name. The managed object class template  
25 object corresponds to the root of a subtree of encapsulator objects that fully defines the class. The subtree objects correspond to GDMO template types.

The managed object class object is invoked using additional information (for example, attribute information)  
30 from the request, and returns one or more references to encapsulator objects in the subtree and/or one or more terminals representing symbols in the parsed request. Any referenced objects are in turn invoked, and the subtree is traversed in this manner until the request is resolved into a  
35 collection of CORBA object references that corresponds to a completely specified GDMO/ASN.1 object definition. Operation name information in the request is parsed in a similar

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manner. The specified definitions are then used to construct the requested CMIS operation invocation. Fig. 3 represents a simplified representation of such a collection of encapsulator object references. A typical collection of 5 references in practice would be far more complex.

The dynamic gateway of this embodiment uses the CORBA Dynamic Skeleton Interface to accept CORBA invocations including CORBA IDL definitions not available to the gateway at compile time. The gateway uses the predefined CORBA 10 interfaces of the GDMO metadata repository to discover the actual parameters being passed by the invocation as well as how to use those parameters to construct the requested CMIS operation invocation. The gateway can thus accept 15 invocations having CORBA interfaces that depend on the CMIS operation requested without compile-time knowledge of either the complete CORBA requesting interface or the CMIS operation. The gateway can therefore be an off-the-shelf application adaptable through the repository to wide variety of circumstances.

20 For example, in a typical network management situation, a variety of devices such as routers, switches, adapters, modems, printers and other computer and communication equipment are connected to the managed network. Instances of managed object classes are used to control these 25 devices, and will have object definitions that vary depending on the particular devices connected to the managed network. By placing the managed object definition information into encapsulator objects in accordance with the present invention, a dynamic gateway may be deployed over a variety 30 of managed networks without modification to the gateway software.

Many other applications for foreign object definition encapsulator objects exist. One such application is a lightweight code generator. Such a code generator may 35 be used for the creation of classes that may directly invoke foreign objects. For example, a CORBA code generator could interrogate a GDMO repository to construct Java or C++ code

for directly invoking GDMO objects. It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill that invention is not limited to the specific embodiments set forth here for purposes of illustration but is applicable broadly to a wide variety of applications involving object manipulation across definition schemes, all as set forth in the claims.

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What is claimed is:

1. A computer system for retrieving object definition information comprising one or more software objects in  
5 encoded in computer readable form, said one or more objects having at least one interface defined in a first notation, said one or more objects encapsulating object definition information specified in a second notation, said second notation being different from said first notation.
- 10 2. The system of claim 1, wherein said first notation comprises CORBA IDL.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein said second notation  
15 comprises ASN.1.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein said second notation comprises GDMO.
- 20 5. The system of claim 1, said system further comprising an metadata repository.
6. The system of claim 5, said system further comprising a dynamic gateway for manipulating objects defined at least in  
25 part in said second notation by means of invocations on interfaces defined in said first notation.
7. A method for accessing object definition information stored in one or more software objects residing in computer  
30 memory, comprising the steps of invoking said one or more objects by means of at least one interface specified in a first notation, said one or more object returning in response to said invocation object definition information specified in a second notation.
- 35 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said first notation comprises CORBA IDL.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said second notation comprises ASN.1.

10. The system of claim 7, wherein said second notation  
5 comprises GDMO.

11. A system for storing object definition information comprising a parser for object definition information, an object factory for instantiating objects encapsulating said  
10 object definition information, said objects having pre-defined interfaces.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein said objects have interfaces defined in CORBA IDL.

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13. The system of claim 12, further comprising a CORBA server utilizing the CORBA Dynamic Skeleton Interface.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein said objects encapsulate  
20 ASN.1 object definition information.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein said objects encapsulate GDMO object definition information.

25 16. The system of claim 12, further comprising a root encapsulator object for resolving object definition name information into an object reference for an encapsulator object corresponding to an object definition type.

30 17. A software object comprising an interface defined in a first notation for manipulating an object at least partially defined in a second notation, said second notation being different from said first notation.

35 18. The software object of claim 17, wherein said first notation comprises CORBA IDL.



19. The software object of claim 18, wherein said second notation comprises ASN.1.

20. The software object of claim 17, wherein said second notation comprises GDMO.

21. A method of constructing an object invocation comprising the steps of:

instantiating an object collection of objects  
10 corresponding to rules specifying the syntax of said object invocation;  
receiving information of the content of the object invocation; and  
interrogating the object collection with the information  
15 to determine a set of objects sufficient to construct the invocation.

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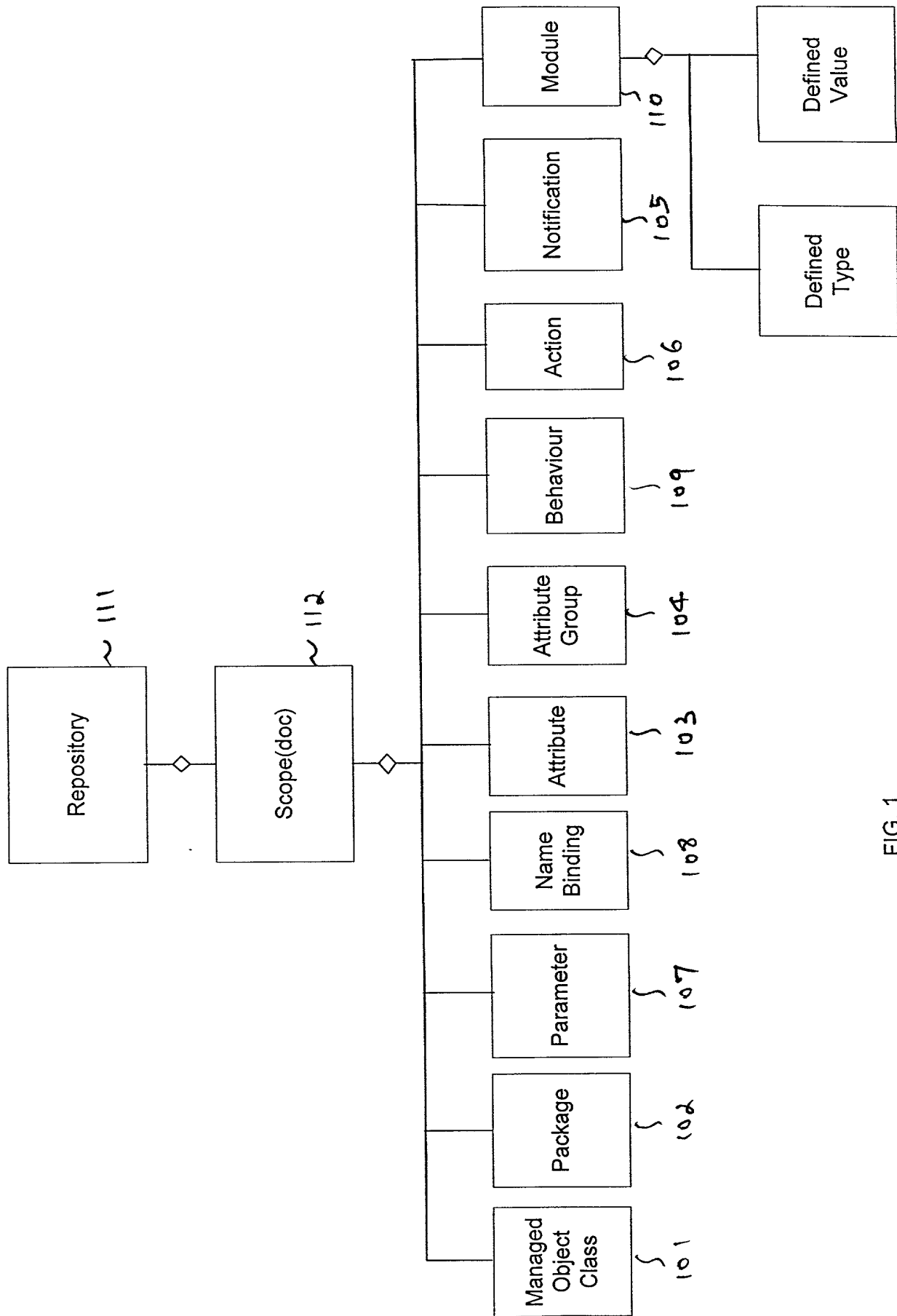


FIG. 1

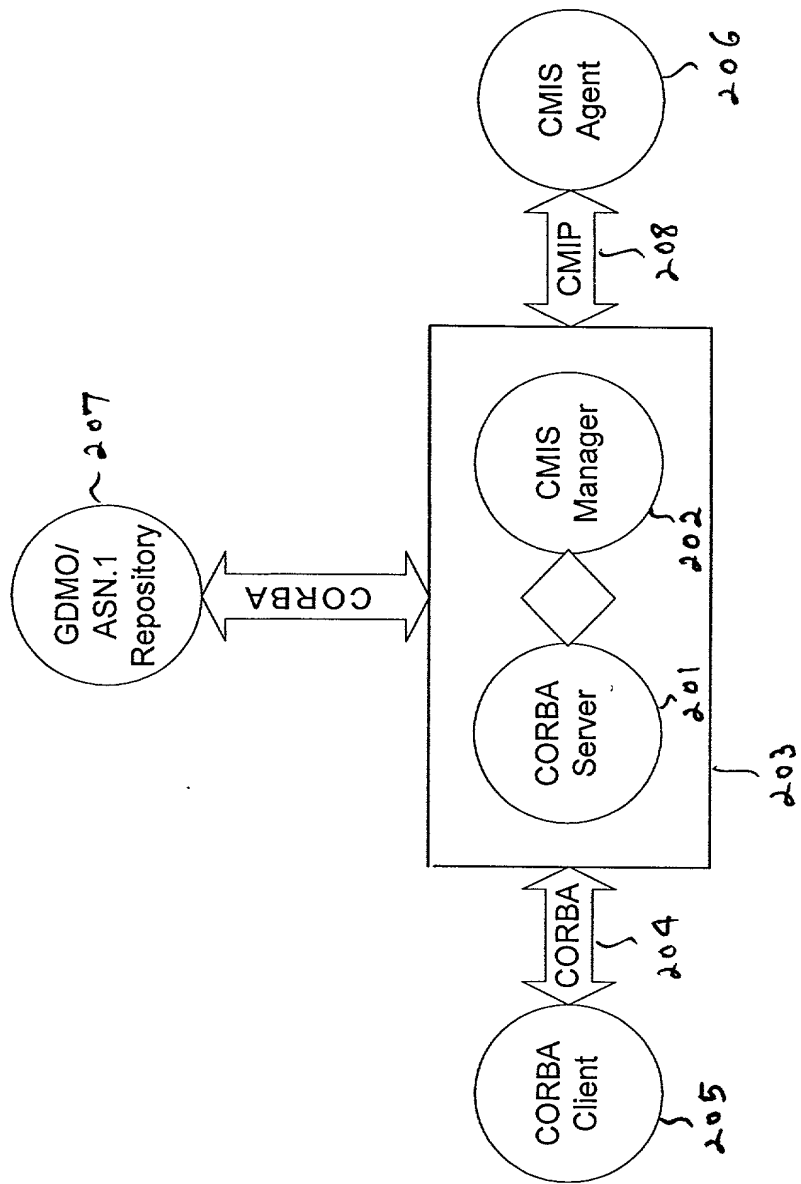


FIG. 2

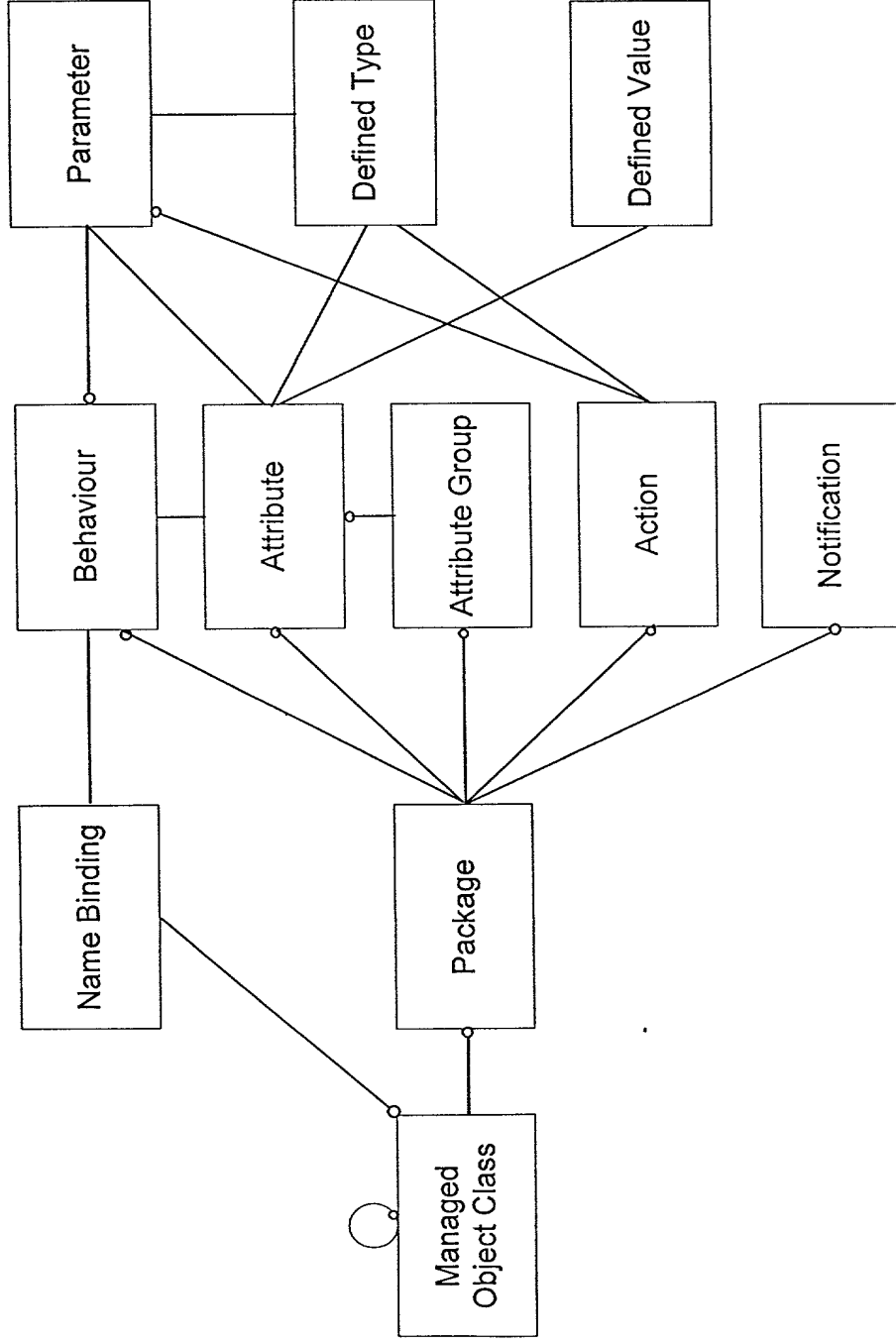


FIG. 3



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**DECLARATION  
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below at 201 et seq. underneath my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of only one name is listed at 201 below, or an original, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed at 201 et seq. below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention identified below.

**FOREIGN OBJECT DEFINITION INFORMATION REPOSITORY**

and for which a patent application:

- ☐ is attached hereto and includes amendment(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)  
☒ was filed in the United States on 2/18/1998 as Application No. 09/024,143 for invention not accompanying application with amendment(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)  
☐ was filed as PCT international Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED PRIOR TO THE FILING DATE OF THE APPLICATION			
APPLICATION NUMBER	COUNTRY	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	STATUS		
		PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED

**POWER OF ATTORNEY.** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint S. Leslie Misrock (Reg. No. 18872), Harry C. Jones, III (Reg. No. 20280), Berj A. Terzian (Reg. No. 20060), Gerald J. Flintoft (Reg. No. 20823), David Weid, III (Reg. No. 21094), Jonathan A. Marshall (Reg. No. 24614), Barry D. Rein (Reg. No. 22411), Stanton T. Lawrence, III (Reg. No. 25736), Isaac Jarkovsky (Reg. No. 22713), Joseph V. Colaianni (Reg. No. 20019), Charles E. McKenney (Reg. No. 22795), Philip T. Shannon (Reg. No. 24278), Francis E. Morris (Reg. No. 24615), Charles E. Miller (Reg. No. 24576), Gidon D. Stern (Reg. No. 27469), John J. Lauter, Jr. (Reg. No. 27814), Brian M. Poissant (Reg. No. 28462), Brian D. Coggio (Reg. No. 27624), Rory J. Radding (Reg. No. 28749), Stephen J. Harbulak (Reg. No. 29166), Donald J. Goodell (Reg. No. 19766), James N. Palik (Reg. No. 25510), Thomas E. Friebe (Reg. No. 29258), Laura A. Coruzzi (Reg. No. 30742), Jennifer Gordon (Reg. No. 30753), Jon R. Stark (Reg. No. 30111), Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30256), Geraldine F. Baldwin (Reg. No. 31232), Victor N. Balancia (Reg. No. 31231), Samuel B. Abrams (Reg. No. 30605), Steven I. Wallach (Reg. No. 35402), Marcia H. Sundeen (Reg. No. 30893), Paul J. Zegger (Reg. No. 33821), Edmond R. Bannon (Reg. No. 32110), Bruce J. Barker (Reg. No. 33291), Adriane M. Antler (Reg. No. 32605), Thomas G. Rowan (Reg. No. 34419), James G. Markey (Reg. No. 31636), Thomas D. Kohler (Reg. No. 32797), Scott D. Stimpson (Reg. No. 33607), Ann L. Gisoiff (Reg. No. 31956), and Mark A. Farley (Reg. No. 33170), all of Pennie & Edmonds LLP, whose addresses are 1155 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10036, 1667 K Street N.W., Washington, DC 20006 and 3300 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94304, and each of them, my attorneys, to prosecute this application, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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203	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
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204	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
205	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
206	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	
	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET	CITY	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201 <i>Mark Burke</i>	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 202	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 203
DATE 7/28/98	DATE	DATE
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206
DATE	DATE	DATE